BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 19 | Humidity 32% Partly sunny Sensex 80,238 | Nifty 24,865 | Gold 1,61,650 | Silver 2,59,500 | Dollar 91.64 | Euro 107.02 | GBP 122.52

GOOD SHOT

Karnataka achieves 104% full immunisation coverage for kids, outperforming many major states

PAGE 2

WAR ZONE

As some flights resume, Kannadigas among those who returned home with tales of tense moments

PAGE 7

Rooftop gardens are not just pretty, but they help cool your homes too, research finds; if 50% of rooftop is covered with dense foliage, room temperature dips by 1.5°C to 3°C and energy consumption reduces too

GO GREEN IF YOU WANT TO KEEP COOL

IIHS researchers study 135 rooftop gardens in 6 wards in city

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

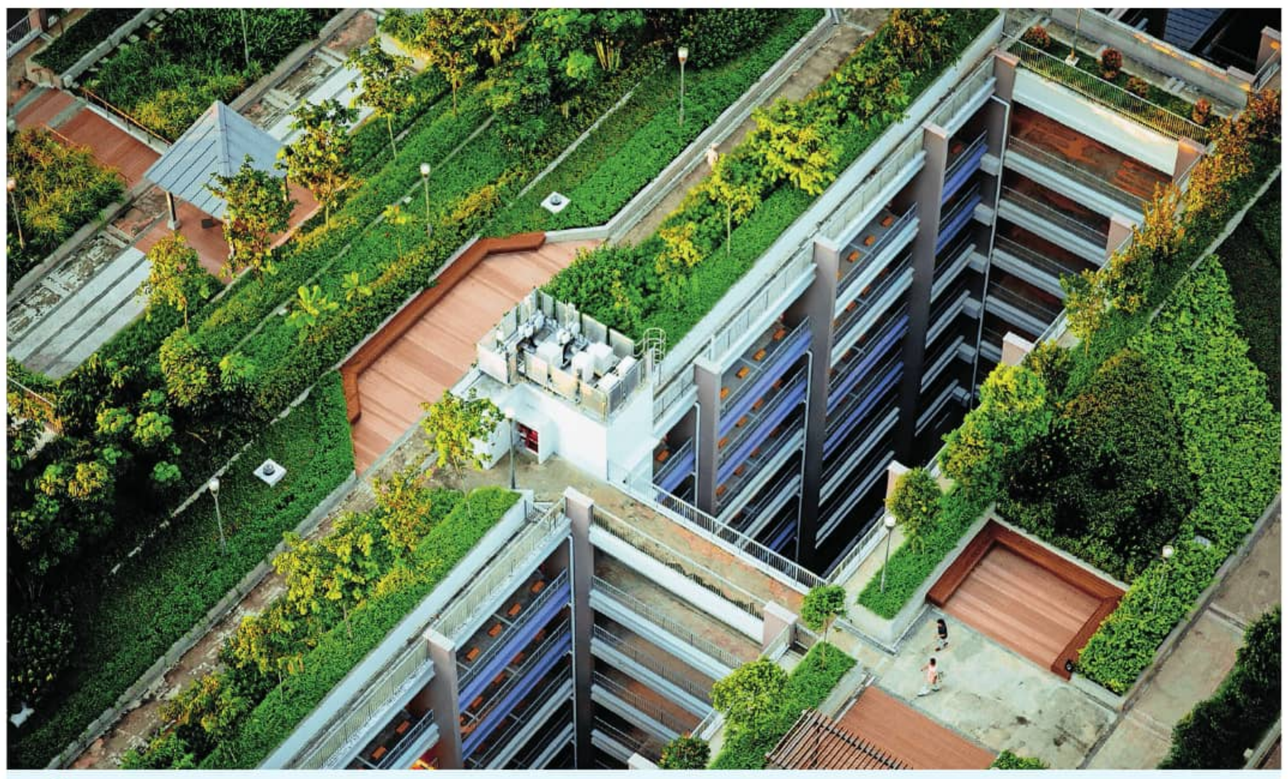
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With day temperature steadily rising, Bengaluru is staring at a harsh summer this year. However, keeping yourself cool indoors may not be as tricky as it sounds. Just by growing vegetables or ornamental plants on your rooftop, you can bring down your room temperature by as much as 14 degrees Celsius, a study has found.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Human Settlement (IIHS) analysed 135 rooftop gardens in six wards across the city -Pulikeshinagar, Doddanekundi, Kumaraswamy Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Basaveshwara Nagar, and Vasanthapura.

Apart from the garden survey, 23 home gardeners were interviewed to understand the heat benefits. Gardens set up by individuals or families on their house roofs, either in pots, raised beds, or a variety of containers, were studied.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »



"82% of the people surveyed agreed that rooftop gardens regulate indoor temperature. They reported feeling 'significant cooling' during February to May. Depending on foliage type and density, rooftop gardens can provide different levels of cooling

—Chandni Singh, IIHS

Axe murder, on the other hand

20 well-grown trees nurtured from sapling stage by volunteers cut overnight by unidentified parties

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While the Bengaluru City Corporations (BCCs), State Forest Department, and environmentalists have been spending a lot of time and money to ensure greenery in the city, simultaneously some people continue chopping down well-grown trees on one or the other pretext. In the latest such incident, 20 well-grown trees on Old Madras Road between the Hanging Bridge and KR Puram were cut down and volunteers who nurtured them from the sapling stage are aghast.

These residents of KR Puram had put in money and time to water saplings planted on the lake beds and the roadside. They have been watering the saplings during summer and winter.

"It is shocking to see such well-grown trees cut. I have seen the volunteer M Sreeram struggle to nurture those saplings into trees. I have enquired with the police and the Bengaluru East City Corporation officials but they feigned ignorance. I suspect the advertisement mafia is behind

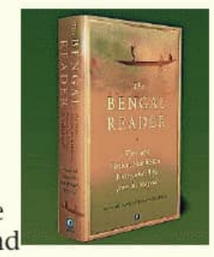
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Colors of harmony

Ekatvam, an initiative of the Entrust Foundation, is bringing the Holi Music Fest 2026, a grand three-day celebration of musical togetherness, artistic excellence, and cultural heritage. **Where: The Bangalore Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi; When: March 6, 7 & 8, 5 pm**

02 Literary lens



Arunava Sinha will be in conversation with writer and editor Shinie Antony for a wide-ranging discussion on the making of The Bengal Reader, the evolution of Bengali literature, and the politics and possibilities of translation. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 6, 5 pm**

03 United by music

Matra Productions is presenting UMMEED – Chapter 3, an inclusive music festival performed by children with special needs. The programme aims to enhance emotional expression, build confidence, and encourage social participation through performance-based interventions. **Where: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; When: March 7, 5 pm**

04 Between the lines

Atta Galatta is hosting 'Journey of a Song-150 years of Vande Mataram', taking the audience on a journey through stories, anecdotes, facts, myths and misgivings surrounding 'Vande Mataram'. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 7, 7 pm**

05 Visual voyage

Internationally recognised visual artist Dr Akhter Husain presents Vedic Inspirations, a solo exhibition exploring India's spiritual and civilisational heritage through a contemporary visual language. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: Until March 8, 10.30 am to 6 pm**

A shot in the arm for K'taka's strong vaccination efforts

As per data, with 104 per cent immunisation coverage, Karnataka stands ahead of many larger states, underscoring effective programme delivery across both urban and rural belts

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka has recorded a robust immunisation coverage of 104 per cent for the period April–December 2025, according to recently released data in Lok Sabha. The state's performance not only surpasses the all-India average of 98.7 per cent, but also places it among the higher-achieving states and union territories in the country's immunisation landscape. Under the Universal Immunisation Programme, all children up to two years of age receive vaccines according to the recommended immunisation schedule. Special catch-up campaigns, such as Mission Indradhanush (MI) and Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI), are conducted periodically to vaccinate children and pregnant women who were previously missed or have dropped out, particularly in areas with low immunisation coverage.

At 104 per cent, Karnataka stands ahead of many larger states such as Maharashtra (99.7 per cent), Odisha (97.5 per cent) and West Bengal (92.7 per cent), underscoring effective programme delivery across both urban and rural belts. Some of the top performers are Telangana (124.7 per cent), Lakshadweep (123.4 per cent), Kerala (109.4 per cent), and Chandigarh (111.1 per cent), all of which have leveraged targeted interventions and strong health system infrastructure to achieve near-universal coverage.

File photo of a child being administered polio vaccine

Top performing states
Telangana: 124.7%
Lakshadweep: 123.4%
Chandigarh: 111.1%
Kerala: 109.4%
Andhra Pradesh: 107%
Karnataka: 104%

States with low coverage
Nagaland: 77.2%
Mizoram: 78.6%
Assam: 81.1%
Arunachal Pradesh: 84.8%
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu: 85.3%

According to health experts, Karnataka's impressive performance stems from a comprehensive package of immunisation initiatives orchestrated by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, in alignment with the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) of the Government of India.

Regular vaccination sessions at health centres and local outreach sites help ensure children under five get all important vaccines like BCG, OPV, DPT, Hepatitis B, Hib, Measles-Rubella, and Pulse Polio on time. Special catch-up drives are also held to reach children who missed their vaccines, especially in remote areas and urban slums, so that every child has a fair chance to be protected. Despite high reported coverage, vaccine hesitancy and missed doses remain challenges in many communities. According to public health experts, measures must go beyond state policies to ensure reported immunisation statistics translate into actual protection for all children.

"Governance must recognise that state policies alone would not suffice, and community ownership and plugging knowledge literacy on vaccination is of critical essence towards enabling inclusivity. People must be led towards understanding the importance and need, which requires a leadership approach of inclusion, of shared belief, of shared progress, and of fraternal comforts," said Dr Edmond Fernandes, Founder, CHD Group & Consultant - Preventive Health and Family Medicine.

Governance must move beyond state policies by fostering community ownership and vaccination literacy through inclusive leadership rooted in shared belief, collective progress, and supportive engagement, says doctor

He also emphasised that full child immunisation is critical for long-term health outcomes. "If we are to create a healthy generation of young Indians, we need to build citizens with good immunity levels. One way of achieving that is through full and proper immunisation so that fighting disease becomes easier and enhancing quality of life becomes a mission," added Dr Fernandes.

Separate wet, dry bins a must for 3+ floor buildings

If you live or work in a building taller than three floors in East Bengaluru, get ready to make space for two bins. At a public grievances meet, Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the East zone, directed officials to immediately issue a circular making it compulsory for all buildings with more than three floors to install separate bins for wet and dry waste.

He made it clear that once the circular is out, notices must be served to all such buildings, directing them to comply without delay. Health officials have been told to keep a close watch and ensure the order doesn't remain only on paper.

Road widening back on track?

On the long-pending widening of Borewell Road, Rao instructed officials to take over abandoned properties that were earlier reserved for road expansion. He asked teams to inspect the stretch, assess the ground situation and initiate road development work at the earliest.

Footpaths under scanner in KR Puram

Officials have been asked to survey major roads in the KR Puram Assembly constituency and draw up a list of stretches where footpaths need repairs and where new ones are missing altogether. The works will be taken up in phases. Encroachments on footpaths in AECS Layout also came up for discussion, with clear directions issued for their removal.

Micro plan to tackle waste

Residents flagged roadside garbage dumping, waste piling up in vacant sites and irregular door-to-door collection across the East zone. Taking note, Rao directed officials to identify chronic trouble spots and prepare a micro plan to streamline waste management.

Action on public grievances

Around 150 citizens attended the meeting and submitted petitions directly to the Chief Commissioner. Officials present were instructed to act swiftly. **— BMB**

Festive hues People celebrated Holi with vibrant colors at Seshadripuram in Bengaluru on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, filling the streets with joy and festive spirit

Woman loses life in house fire

A 55-year-old woman died in a suspected accidental fire that broke out at a three-storey residence in Rajajinagar on Sunday night. The incident was reported under the limits of the Subramanyanagar Police Station.

According to the complaint filed by DRR Ramesh Babu (59), a contractor, the fire accident occurred between 9.30 pm and 10 pm on March 2 from a kitchen on the third floor. The family resides in a duplex portion on the third and fourth floor, while the ground and first floors are rented out.

At the time of the incident, Ramesh Babu and his mother, Chinnamma, were watching television on the third floor while his sons were in separate rooms upstairs when one of them noticed flames engulfing a room opposite his own. He immediately alerted the family and escorted his father and grandmother to safety.

However, Savita N (55), wife of the complainant, who was on the top floor, could not escape as the fire intensified rapidly. Fire and emergency personnel later doused the flames and brought her downstairs in an unconscious state.

She was rushed to Manipal Hospital, Malleshwaram, where doctors declared her dead. Police have registered a case and are investigating the cause of the fire. **BMB**

Man stabbed to death in quarrel

A 35-year-old man was allegedly killed after being stabbed during a quarrel at a hotel in West Bengaluru late on Monday night. The incident occurred around 11.45 pm on March 2 at Sri Raghavendra Veg Dosa Corner on Thimmaiah Road in Basaveshwaranagar.

The deceased has been identified as Shashikumar, who had reportedly visited the hotel for dinner. According to the complaint, a heated argument erupted between Shashikumar and two individuals identified as Manjunath (A1) and Bhagyaraj alias Papu (A2). The dispute allegedly intensified, following which the accused are said to have assaulted Shashikumar on the neck with sharp weapons, including knives and a dagger, with an intention to kill him.

Shashikumar suffered grievous injuries and collapsed at the scene. The accused reportedly escaped immediately after carrying out the attack. On receiving information at around 12.45 am on March 3, police personnel rushed to the spot, carried out a preliminary examination, and later shifted the body for post-mortem. **BMB**

From colours to sweets.
Delivering Holi's best treats.
bigbasket
A TATA Enterprise
Holi Essentials delivered now.
Free Delivery on your first 4 orders
T&C apply. For more details, offers, terms & conditions visit the bigbasket app or log on to bigbasket.com/FAQ
Images are for illustration purposes only.
PENTAGON 13369

Rowdy sheeter held for stealing electronics from PGs

KAUSHIK JN

In an interstate investigation, police arrested a history-sheeter from Ambur, Tamil Nadu, following complaints of stolen laptops and mobile phones from PG accommodations in Bengaluru. On October 18, 2025, a resident of a PG in Whitefield lodged a complaint stating that one laptop and two mobile phones had been stolen from his room. Based on this, a case was registered at Whitefield Police Station.

On February 11, 2026, police received a Namma 112 alert reporting a suspicious individual loitering near a PG in Pattandur Agrahara. The suspect was kept under observation, and the Hoysala-229 patrol team rushed to the spot, apprehended him, and brought him to the police station.

Fingerprint verification confirmed that he was a history-sheeter. Investigations revealed that the accused, along with his associates, was habitually involved in stealing laptops and mobile phones from PG accommodations and houses in the Whitefield area.

During interrogation, he admitted that the stolen laptops and mobile phones had been sold in his native place at Udayarajapalayam, Ambur Taluk, Tamil Nadu. Acting on this information, police recovered 15 laptops worth Rs 10 lakh within six days of the operation.

Police are continuing their investigation to trace additional associates of the arrested accused and recover 11 more laptops. Efforts are underway, with interrogation and follow-up inquiries in progress to identify and apprehend the remaining suspects. **BMB**

Stolen gold and silver articles worth over ₹44 lakh recovered

Following a tip-off between January 21 and February 3, 2026, officials recovered 220 grams of gold ornaments and 3.391 kilograms of silver articles from various jewellery shops and associates, valued at Rs 44.08 lakh. On February 4, 2026, the accused were produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody. This massive haul was carried out under the supervision of DCP Electronic City Division, Narayan M. The case originated from a complaint filed on December 22, 2025, by a resident of Gattahalli village, within the jurisdiction of Hebbagodi Police Station, reporting the theft of 220 grams of gold and 3.391 kilograms of silver, amounting to Rs 44.08 lakh.

On December 13, 2025, the complainant's friend left for a pilgrimage to Kashi with his family, entrusting the complainant with the care of his plants during his absence. When the complainant visited the friend's house, he noticed that a window was open and immediately informed his friend over the phone. At the friend's request, the complainant entered the house through the front door while on a WhatsApp video call, allowing the friend to inspect the premises remotely. During this inspection, it was discovered that thieves had broken in and stolen gold ornaments, silver articles, and cash worth Rs 44.08 lakh from a cupboard. Following this, a case of theft was registered at Hebbagodi Police Station.

Information received led to the detention of three accused persons on January 23, 2026. Following intense interrogation, all three confessed to their involvement in the theft.

During interrogation, they revealed that portions of the stolen gold and silver had been sold at pawn and jewellery shops, while some gold ornaments had been handed over to friends. Acting on this information, officials successfully traced and recovered the stolen items. **BMB**

Drug peddler arrested; contraband worth ₹55 lakh seized

As part of a city-wide drug crackdown to ensure a clean Bengaluru, police arrested an interstate drug operative within the limits of Whitefield Police Station on March 1, 2026. The arrest took place at a vehicle checking post near Shivakumtamma Temple, Nagondanahalli, where the accused was found in possession of 27.239 kilograms of ganja and 3.2 kilograms of hashish oil.

Police officials on duty intercepted the suspect during routine checks. A search of his person and vehicle confirmed possession of banned narcotic substances. During interrogation, the accused confessed to procuring ganja and hashish oil at low prices from unidentified suppliers and selling them at higher rates in Bengaluru, targeting the public, including IT/BT employees.

The total value of the seized contraband was estimated at Rs 55 lakh, comprising 27.239 kilograms of ganja, 3.2 kilograms of hashish oil, and the two-wheeler used for peddling. On March 1, 2026, the accused was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody. **BMB**

Major seizures in crackdown on drugs

On March 2, 2026, the Narcotics Control Wing of the Central Crime Branch, Bengaluru City, seized 8,335 LSD strips, 5 kilograms of hydro-ganja, 534 grams of charas, along with two mobile phones and a two-wheeler. The total value of the seizure is estimated at Rs 11.50 crore.

Following a crackdown on peddlers, a raid was conducted within the limits of Bagaluru Police Station, based on information gathered by a team led by ACP HK Mahanand and Police Inspectors Manjappa CA, Rakshit AK and VD Shivaraju.

Four accused, all around 25 years of age, were identified as Ashwin Shiju, Mobin Namaz, a woman, and Wilson (currently absconding).

In an additional seizure operation led by ACP HK Mahanand, police recovered 1.5 kilograms of hydro-ganja worth Rs 1.5 crore. The contraband had been smuggled through an international parcel service, concealed inside chocolate and biscuit boxes to avoid detection.

A case was registered at KG Nagar Police Station under the NDPS Act, and investigation is underway. **BMB**

Three arrested for burglary after long search

Following a tip-off on August 7, 2025, police recovered 711 grams of gold ornaments along with Rs 19.5 lakh in cash, valued at a total of Rs 1.40 crore. Within six months, the theft was traced to Prakruthi Layout, Anchepalya village, under the jurisdiction of Madanayakanahalli Police Station, leading to the arrest of two persons.

The case began with a complaint lodged on August 10, 2025, by a resident who had travelled with his family to Tamil Nadu on August 7. On the afternoon of August 9, a neighbour informed him of a break-in at his house. The front door had been forced open with tools, and unknown persons had stolen 248 grams of gold ornaments. A house-breaking theft case was registered at Madanayakanahalli Police Station.

Acting on credible information, police apprehended one accused on January 11, 2026. During interrogation, he confessed to committing the theft along with two accomplices. From his possession, 348 grams of gold ornaments and a motorcycle used in the offence were recovered. Further investigations led to the arrest of an absconding accomplice on February 17, 2026, at Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Chamarajanagar. The third absconding accused was arrested on February 19 at Saraki Junction, Banashankari.

During intensive interrogation, the accused revealed that the stolen ornaments had been pledged at various jewellery shops and distributed among relatives and acquaintances. Between February 19 and 28, police recovered 711 grams of gold ornaments, one car, and two motorcycles, with a total value of Rs 1.40 crore. **BMB**

Vacant site becomes dumping ground amid official silence

Broken assurances, ignored emails and rising dengue risk push frustrated homeowners to demand urgent intervention

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The owners of vacant sites in Bengaluru are expected to keep their properties clean and tidy. The then BBMP Chief Commissioner, Tushar Girinath, wrote a letter to Zonal Commissioners on August 7, 2024, directing them to issue notices to site owners to clear vacant sites within seven days and impose not only a penalty but also recover the cost incurred for cleaning them. However, some residents at 1st Cross, Vivekananda Nagar, in Maruthi Seva Nagar ward within the Bengaluru North City Corporation limits complained that the letter has had no impact on the authorities concerned to date.

Residents say they have been battling an ever-growing menace — an empty, abandoned plot that has become a festering dumping yard, a mosquito-breeding jungle, and a serious public health hazard. They added that they are fed up with BNCC's utter indifference, arrogance and bureaucratic apathy towards their repeated pleas.

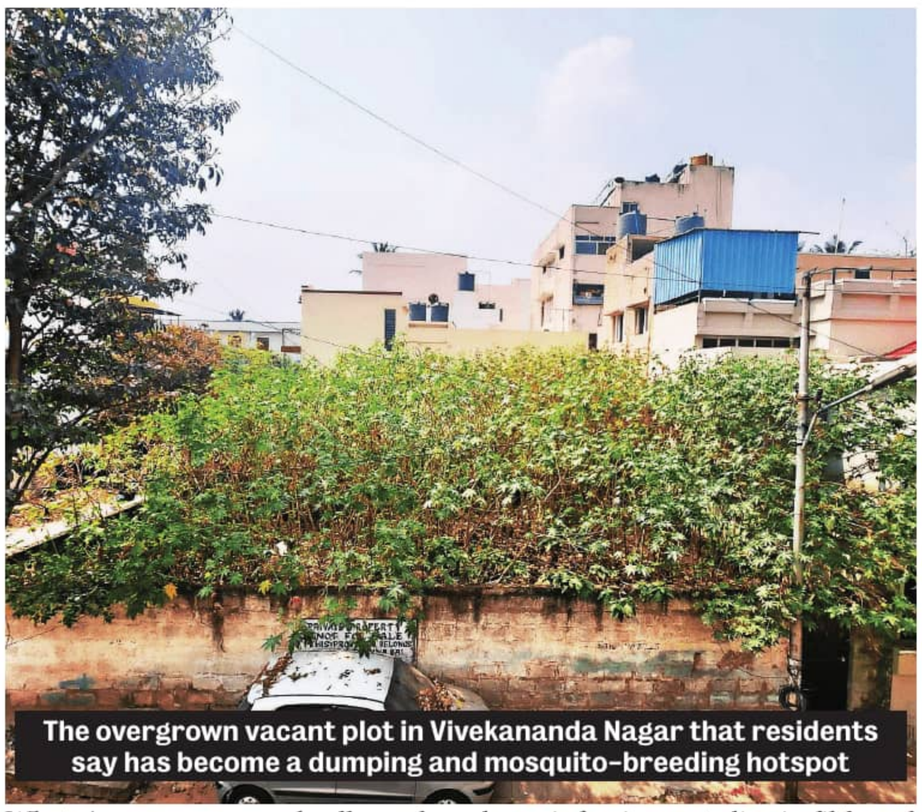
The once peaceful neighbourhood now lives in constant fear of disease and danger. The abandoned plot, lying unused for over twenty years due to ownership disputes, has turned into a dumping ground filled with garbage, thick undergrowth over twenty-five feet high, and a breeding ground for rodents, reptiles and mosquitoes. Stagnant water in the plot makes it an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, increasing the risk of diseases such as dengue. Residents have been pooling money to get the plot cleared of weeds and overgrowth since 2015.

They said that a person named Hasan erected a makeshift gate in September 2024, claiming ownership and promising to begin development by December. The residents

Abandoned site festers for decades, residents allege official silence, soaring infestation, mounting repair bills and unkept development promises

said the gate remains locked, the plot untouched, and Hasan untraceable even after a year.

Residents complain that their relentless attempts to reach BNCC authorities have been met with silence and disdain. Dozens of calls and WhatsApp messages to the official numbers of Zonal and Joint Commissioners, the Special Commissioner (Revenue and Health), and even the BBMP helpline 1533 have gone unanswered. Emails sent on August 9, 12 and 21, 2025, and again on September 25 and October 3, 2025, received no acknowledgement. Even



The overgrown vacant plot in Vivekananda Nagar that residents say has become a dumping and mosquito-breeding hotspot

WhatsApp messages and calls made on January 30, 2026, to Maruthi Seva Nagar DGM Ms Rashmi N and Ward AEE Ms Mamatha have not been answered. "It is high time the BBMP Commissioner intervenes. The corporation must issue a single notice to the absentee owners, clear the waste immediately, disinfect the area and, if necessary, take possession of the property to prevent further threat to human life. The residents of Vivekananda Nagar demand action, not empty promises," said Mohan Nair, a resident.

Expressing concern about the overgrown weeds, Md Umair, a resident, said that every night giant rats from the plot creep into his car bonnet and chew through engine cables. "I've had to replace wiring twice in three months. BNCC's silence is forcing us to live in filth and fear," he said.

Karunakaran G, a resident, said the trees and weeds shed so many dry leaves that his terrace is constantly covered. "It is very expensive for us to keep cleaning the terrace. We can't even open windows — mosquitoes swarm inside the moment we do," he said.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) Deputy General Manager Rashmi said she would issue a notice to the site owner. "The problem will be fixed shortly," she said.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled The woods are dark, ugly and deep on October 2, 2020, narrating how an empty corner site had become a mini forest with plants hanging over the boundary wall.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Dangerous manholes

Koramangala

Manholes below road level near Jyothi Nivas College, Koramangala, are posing a serious risk to two-wheelers.

Public nuisance

SG Palya

Bhuvanappa Layout, Orion Motors Lane, opposite Nexus Mall and the IndianOil petrol pump, is facing public nuisance due to urination, littering and parked vehicles. Residents seek immediate clearance.

Broken footpath

Marathahalli

Broken footpath slabs outside Purva Riviera, Marathahalli, under the BSMILE high-density corridor project, have been left open for days, posing a risk to thousands of daily pedestrians.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client M/s. HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED (Public Sector Enterprise) a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its Registered Office at Petroleum House, 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai - 400 020 and having its Regional Office at 1st Floor BSNL CACT, K R Puram, Bengaluru-560016 represented by its Chief Regional Manager and Duly Constituted Attorney intends to obtain ownership rights over the property more fully described in the schedule hereunder, to run and operate a petroleum retail outlet, from **Sri. Venkatappa S/o Dasegowda** for the location at Maluru Village, Maluru Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District (Bangalore South), who claim and represent to be the absolute owner having clear and marketable right and title over the schedule property.

Any person/s, financial institutions, firms or predecessor/s-in-title, Govt. authorities/bodies, banks, co-operative societies, having any manner of right, interest or title over the schedule property or any portion thereof, or the boundary or having any kind of objection to the transaction may contact the under signed counsel along with relevant documentary proof within 15 days from this publication, after which it would be construed that there is no objection whatsoever from any one and the said transaction would be completed.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property Converted Survey No 488, Property No 152900101800420940 totally an extent of 2630.46 Sq meters (28314 Sq feet) Situated at Maluru Village, Maluru Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District, (Bangalore South) Karnataka State

EAST BY	:	Private Property,
WEST BY	:	Survey No.486, 485,
NORTH BY	:	Road.
SOUTH BY	:	Road

CHANDAN B, ADVOCATE
Mobile No.: 8722054869.
Nelamangala Date: 04-03-2026

Bottle blues? just reuse

JP Nagar residents unveil smart refill hub to tackle mounting plastic pollution through everyday household action

In a step towards reducing plastic waste, residents of JP Nagar 2nd Phase have launched a Smart Refill Station that encourages people to stop buying new plastic bottles and instead refill household cleaning liquids using their own containers.

The initiative, led by the Women of Wisdom group in JP Nagar, has been introduced with the support of Socratus and Fahad from Smartfill, who helped to set up the automated system. The station allows residents to refill quality home-care liquids with just one tap. The idea is simple: carry your own bottle, refill what you need, and avoid buying a new plastic container each time.

Every month, households purchase multiple bottles of liquid cleaners, detergents and other home-care products. While many people now carry reusable shopping bags, they still bring home several new plastic bottles each time they shop. The refill station aims to change that habit.

"Refill, reuse, repeat, that is our message. One small swap can reduce plastic bottle consumption significantly. If every household starts refilling instead of buying new bottles, we can cut down plastic waste in our community," said Shwetha Urs from the Women of Wisdom group.

She added, "This is not just about saving the Earth, but also about saving money. Refilling is convenient and cost-effective. It is a small lifestyle change that makes a big difference." Apart from reducing plastic waste and saving money, refill stations offer several other practical and environmental benefits. They help cut down packaging waste at the source, reducing the need to manufacture caps, labels and additional wrapping materials. By encouraging people to refill only the quantity they require, these stations minimise overconsumption and prevent unnecessary stockpiling at home. They also reduce the burden on waste-management systems, as fewer discarded bottles need to be collected, transported and processed. Refill models support a circular economy by keeping resources in use for longer and promoting mindful consumption.

The user-friendly refill station lets residents place their bottle, choose a product and top up, ensuring quality while promoting sustainability.

The Women of Wisdom group hopes more neighbourhoods adopt refill models, urging residents to choose refilling over new plastic bottles and embrace conscious consumption. With slogans like "One Tap to Refill", the group says small daily actions can drive meaningful environmental change. — **Iffath Fathima**

₹25 crore plan to ease traffic

In a major step to ease Bengaluru's chronic traffic congestion, the city traffic police have proposed a new ₹25 crore project titled Mobility Digital Twin, in coordination with the Greater Bengaluru Authority and other civic agencies. The State Government has responded positively to the proposal, and there is a strong possibility that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah may announce it in this year's Budget as a special initiative for Bengalureans. The project aims to ensure joint accountability among departments such as the Greater Bengaluru Authority, BMRCL, BESCOM and BWSSB, instead of placing the burden solely on the traffic police.

Bengaluru's traffic crisis continues to attract global attention, and the government has been exploring long-term solutions. Recent high-level meetings have stressed the need for better coordination, especially in managing sudden crowds that can affect both traffic flow and law and order. Officials cited the stampede incident at M Chinnaswamy Stadium as an example, stating that timely data on crowd build-up at nearby Metro stations could have helped police deploy additional security. Under the proposed system, all departments will upload real-time information onto a shared digital platform and app. For instance, if roadworks are undertaken, full route details must be updated, enabling police to suggest diversions. Similarly, Metro authorities will be required to alert police immediately in cases of heavy footfall. Officials said that the integrated platform will provide live updates on roadworks, traffic movement and crowd gatherings, helping authorities act swiftly and prevent disruptions. —BMB

Inspectors left waiting for transfers

Transfer list for city commissionerate remains pending amid interference and corruption allegations

The transfer process of police inspectors in the Bengaluru City Police Commissionerate and nearby districts has been stalled for nearly six months due to a political tug of war, leaving many officers in uncertainty. Nearly 90 per cent of inspectors in the city's 117 law and order stations and 53 traffic stations have completed their two-year tenure and are now serving an extended period. While a few are relieved at the unexpected extension, several others posted in non-executive wings such as CID, Lokayukta and Intelligence are disappointed as they continue to wait for postings in city police stations.

Though the department transferred 129 inspectors and 23 DySPs in February, the list for the Bengaluru Commissionerate and some districts is still pending. Amid allegations of corruption and political interference in transfers, a Lokayukta inspector from Mandya has reportedly written to the Director General and Inspector General of Police seeking implementation of a digital counselling system for transfers of PSI rank and above, similar to that followed by the Excise Department, to ensure transparency and protect the department's credibility. Meanwhile, officers aspiring to executive positions remain on edge, waiting anxiously for the long-delayed transfer list to be released. —BMB

RTOs shift gears with geo-check system

Transport Department launches geo-mapped mobile app mandating on-site inspections, aiming to end manipulation in commercial vehicle fitness certification

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

RTO officials launch geo-mapped app to curb certificate fraud

To plug loopholes in the fitness certification process for commercial vehicles, the Transport Department has rolled out a geo-mapping-based mobile application across all RTO offices in the State. The Mobile Fitness App, introduced to bring transparency and accountability into the system, aims to curb manipulation in the issuance of Fitness Certificates. The app-linked, computerised automated testing setup replaces the largely manual inspection process that has long been criticised for irregularities and alleged corruption.

Karnataka has 67 Regional Transport Offices and nearly 30 lakh commercial vehicles on its rolls. An official said, "Until now, Motor Vehicle Inspectors conducted physical inspections and issued Fitness Certificates, but the system was often accused of lacking uniformity and enabling malpractices. Hence, the new app mandates that vehicles be physically brought to designated inspection points at each RTO. Inspectors must capture six geo-tagged photographs of every vehicle and complete the checks as per prescribed norms. The app will not activate outside the mapped location, making it impossible to clear a vehicle without physical verification." The department believes this will eliminate human interference and shut the door on back-door approvals.

The crackdown follows a major corruption case at the Koramangala RTO in Bengaluru, where inspectors allegedly renewed Fitness Certificates without physically inspecting vehicles. Investigations revealed that even vehicles from other States, including Maharashtra and Kerala, were cleared irregularly. Four inspectors were found to be involved, and a senior Motor Vehicle Inspector was suspended in connection with the case. The incident prompted the department to fast-track tech-driven monitoring of the fitness process.

An official added,"Under the Motor Vehicles Act, commercial transport vehicles must obtain a Fitness Certificate every two years for the first eight years after registration, and annually thereafter. However, there have been persistent complaints that vehicle owners, through middlemen, bribed officials to secure certificates for unfit vehicles." In some cases, vehicles that should have been scrapped after 15 years were allowed to ply on roads, raising serious safety concerns and contributing to accidents. With geo-mapping surveillance and mandatory on-site verification now in place, officials are hopeful that the revamped system will restore credibility, improve road safety and put an end to long-standing irregularities in the fitness certification process.

It may be noted that recently a retired RTO officer was booked after allegedly issuing over 10,210 fitness certificates in just five months to out-of-state goods vehicles and buses without conducting mandatory inspections, leading to a suspected loss of crores to the State exchequer. The irregularities, flagged after a complaint and a departmental inspection in February, revealed that even vehicles from States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat were cleared under Form 38A without physical verification. Many of the vehicles are believed to be 15 to 20 years old, raising serious road safety concerns, and police have registered a criminal case while further investigation is underway.

Authorities act following scandal involving officials accused of clearing interstate goods carriers illegally, triggering suspension, inquiry and sweeping administrative reforms

Chinnaswamy hosts RCB again

With the Karnataka state government giving its go-ahead, defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru are set to return to the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, with five of their home games confirmed to take place in Bengaluru this season.

The remaining two home matches of their IPL 2026 campaign will be staged at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur, as per prior commitment.

This is a significant development for RCB following the horrific stampede that took place near the stadium due to mismanagement, as the franchise celebrated its maiden IPL title last year. The Karnataka government initiated an inquiry into the incident, and all activities at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium were suspended, forcing the franchise to search for an alternative home venue. However, matters have now settled, and the government recently granted permission to organise matches at the stadium.

"This comes after months of hard work and close coordination among all concerned authorities, with a common goal of bringing the games back to the home ground for the fans," RCB said in a release on Tuesday.

In the statement, the RCB management also extended its sincere gratitude to the Government of Karnataka, the Karnataka State Cricket Association, and the Karnataka Police for their unwavering guidance, cooperation and support in facilitating the hosting of matches in Bengaluru. The collective efforts to upgrade infrastructure and safety measures in time for the IPL season have ensured that the defending champions will play the majority of their home games at their home ground.

Rajesh Menon, CEO of Royal Challengers Bengaluru, said,"The M Chinnaswamy Stadium is more than just our home ground, it is where our identity as a team truly comes alive. The energy our fans bring to Bengaluru has always been a driving force for our players, inspiring them through every phase of the game. Our fans have stood by us unconditionally, and they deserve the opportunity to watch their team compete at home."

"After detailed discussions and completing the necessary due process regarding permissions, we are pleased to confirm that RCB will play five matches in Bengaluru. We sincerely thank the Government of Karnataka, the KSCA and the Karnataka Police for their support in making this possible." This effort and positive outcome reaffirm the franchise's deep-rooted bond with its passionate home supporters and mark the continued presence of the champions at their fortress, the statement said.

The IPL Governing Council is likely to release the full schedule of the 2026 edition of the tournament after the conclusion of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.. —IANS

Kaiga units 5 and 6 to boost nuclear capacity

Two new units with capacity of 700 megawatts that will use Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor technology get clearance from authority; site excavation to follow

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Advanced 700 MW indigenous reactors under construction at Kaiga are central to India's strategy to boost low-carbon baseload power

Construction of the 5th and 6th nuclear power units at the Kaiga Atomic Power Station in Karnataka is set to begin this November, with Unit 5 scheduled for commissioning by October 2030. The clearance was recently given by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, the national body that oversees nuclear safety, after completing detailed safety evaluations. The two new units will each have a capacity of 700 megawatts and will use Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology. The approval allows the first stage of concrete work to begin following site excavation. The upcoming reactors will be similar in design to Units 3 and 4 of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station in Gujarat. These 700 MW reactors have been indigenously designed and developed by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and incorporate advanced safety features mandated by the regulator.

A senior official said the additions form part of a larger national initiative to develop 20 nuclear power units of 700 MW each in states including Karnataka, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. With most of the preliminary groundwork completed, critical turbine components have already arrived at the site, and the first phase of civil works is expected to commence soon. Officials added that the sixth unit will adopt advanced water-recycling technology to optimise usage, drawing water only once from the river and reusing it multiple times to reduce environmental impact.

India's nuclear power generation capacity is projected to more than double over the next five years. At present, the country's installed nuclear power capacity stands at 8,180 MW. With the addition of Kaiga's fifth and sixth units and other projects underway, India is constructing 14,300 MW of nuclear capacity. Upon completion by 2030-31, the total installed nuclear capacity is expected to reach 22.48 gigawatts (GW), according to the Centre.

Sources said India currently operates seven nuclear power stations across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, comprising 24 nuclear power units of varying capacities. These plants make a significant contribution to the national grid. Haryana and Madhya Pradesh are also set to add new nuclear units, further strengthening the country's energy infrastructure and long-term energy security.

Minister of State for Earth Sciences and Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh informed the Rajya Sabha that contracts for constructing the fifth and sixth units at Kaiga in Uttara Kannada district have been awarded to a private company. Groundbreaking for the two 700 MW units took place in April 2022, and transportation of heavy machinery for the project is currently underway. Once completed, the total capacity of the Kaiga Nuclear Power Station will increase to 2,280 MW.

With regulatory clearance secured, NPCIL advances Kaiga's expansion, part of India's plan to reach 22.48 GW nuclear capacity by 2030-31, even as activists question waste management and sustainability concerns

He also stated that of the 14,300 MW nuclear capacity under development nationwide, 7,300 MW is currently under construction, while an additional 7,000 MW is in the planning stage. The Kaiga expansion is a key component of this broader programme. At present, Kaiga has four operational units with a combined capacity of 880 MW. The addition of Units 5 and 6 will substantially enhance Karnataka's electricity generation capacity. In Tamil Nadu, the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant operates two 1,000 MW units, with additional units of similar capacity under construction. Maharashtra has two nuclear units with capacities of 160 MW and 540 MW. Once the new units at Kaiga are operational, the station will become the second-largest nuclear power facility in South India. The expansion is also expected to create 789 permanent jobs, according to NPCIL.

Nuclear power generation in India has seen fluctuations in recent years. The country produced 46,472 million units in 2019-20, which declined to 43,029 million units in 2020-21. Output rose to 47,112 million units in 2021-22, dipped to 45,855 million units in 2022-23, and increased again to 47,971 million units in 2023-24. With plans to raise capacity to 22,480 MW by 2030-31, nuclear energy is expected to play a crucial role in reducing dependence on thermal power and boosting clean energy production.

However, environmental concerns remain. Green activist Kumar K opposed the expansion, stating that expanding nuclear power without fully addressing long-term waste disposal, environmental risks and community safety concerns cannot be considered sustainable development. He argued that safer, decentralised renewable energy solutions should be prioritised to protect both people and ecosystems.

Kodava families unite for Hockey festival

Madikeri is preparing to host the 26th Kodava Family Hockey Festival, Chenanda Hockey Namme 2026, from April 5 to May 2 at the General KS Thimayya Stadium in Napoklu. Organised at an estimated cost of Rs 2.75–3 crore, the month-long event remains one of India's most distinctive hockey tournaments, played exclusively by Kodava families and rooted in lineage, identity and tradition. Preparations are in full swing, with four grounds being readied for matches. The Kundolanda family has voluntarily developed one ground, while the Chenanda family is preparing the remaining three. Beyond its scale, the festival reflects strong community participation. With 32 registration centres functioning, organisers have introduced digital documentation of teams and players, comprehensive match statistics, rain protection across the venue, and allied programmes including coaching camps, a marathon and green initiatives, reinforcing sport as a collective cultural celebration. **— BMB**

Siddaramaiah slams phone tapping allegations

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in a strong-worded response, denied the phone-tapping allegations by Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, calling them a "frustrated statement from restless souls." In an X post, Siddaramaiah shared media reports in which Opposition leaders accused him of spying on Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, dismissing the claims as an attempt to create a rift between the two senior Congress leaders.

The allegations emerged amid speculation of a tussle between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar over the Chief Minister's post. Siddaramaiah termed the accusations baseless, likening them to the proverb "Ta khul athar namba," and said such remarks would not affect their relationship, which he described as being "like milk and honey." He also pointed out that Chief Ministers have traditionally overseen the Intelligence Department, including those now making the allegations. Further, he alleged that the BJP and JD(S) were trying to woo Shivakumar, asserting that Congress upholds internal democracy and that both leaders remain committed to the party high command. **— ANI**

KPCL's Bidadi waste-to-energy plant secures long-pending statutory clearance

After months of regulatory scrutiny, Karnataka Pollution Control Board grants SWM authorisation to 600 TPD Bidadi plant amid compliance concerns

The Karnataka Power Corporation Limited's (KPCL) Waste-to-Energy Plant in Bidadi has finally received the necessary statutory clearance for functioning. The plant, operational since April 2025, had been running without authorisation under the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules from the state pollution control board until recently. Clearance was granted by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on February 18. "We received authorisation under the SWM Rules nearly a week ago. These processes take time, which led to the delay. However, we now have all statutory approvals to operate the plant," said H. Satish Kumar, Executive Director, WtE Plant, Bidadi.

According to the authorisation letter issued by the KSPCB on February 18, KPC Gas Power Corporation Limited has been granted permission to set up and operate a waste processing, recycling, treatment and disposal facility at the KIADB Industrial Area in Bidadi. The authorisation is valid until June 30, 2028.

The clearance comes months after the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) flagged environmental and regulatory violations at the facility. In a report, the CPCB noted that the plant had been functioning without authorisation under the SWM Rules, 2016, and that its monitoring system was not linked to the servers of either the CPCB or the KSPCB.

Prior to this, the KSPCB had issued a show-cause notice to the plant for failing to obtain mandatory authorisation under the SWM Rules.

The Bidadi Waste-to-Energy plant has the capacity to process 600 tonnes of municipal solid waste per day. Officials said that so far, nearly two lakh metric tonnes of dry waste have been incinerated, generating close to 70 million units of electricity.

Although the plant was commissioned in December 2024, operations began only in April 2025 following an accident at the unit in January last year. Officials added that bottom ash generated at the plant has been sent to the Central Road Research Institute in Delhi for analysis. Depending on the results, the ash may be used in road and pavement construction. With support from the Greater Bengaluru Authority, it could potentially be used for road works in Bengaluru. The plant management also stated that measures are in place to prevent foul odour from leachate, including hourly spraying of an organic solution as part of an odour-control system. **— Garima Prasher**

Stranded Indians return safely as UAE flights resume

Among those to arrive back home are Karnataka Legislative Council member SL Bhojegowda and badminton star PV Sindhu

A family stranded in Dubai amid the US-Israel conflict with Iran, arrives at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Indians, including several Kannadigas, who were stranded in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) following flight cancellations triggered by the Israel-Iran conflict, have begun returning home, bringing relief to families in Karnataka. Meanwhile, the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Tuesday set up a dedicated Help Desk at the kerbside of Terminal 2 to assist passengers amid ongoing disruptions to flight operations.

A flight that departed from Dubai on Monday night landed safely at Kempegowda International Airport near Devanahalli in the early hours of Tuesday. Among those on board were Karnataka Legislative Council member SL Bhojegowda and badminton star PV Sindhu.

Speaking to reporters after his arrival, Bhojegowda said he had travelled to South Africa and was returning to Bengaluru via Dubai when the situation escalated. "Only after reaching Dubai did I learn about the problem. Initially, there was a delay in departure. Later, we were informed that the flight had been cancelled. There was such a heavy rush at Dubai airport that there was hardly any space," he said.

He said Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy contacted him and arranged hotel accommodation. "There was a bombing near the hotel as well. Later, we were shifted to a safer location. Even then, there was constant concern about safety," he said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Ministers Krishna Byre Gowda and HK Patil also called to enquire about the situation, he added.

Recalling tense moments, Bhojegowda said he heard explosions while speaking to Krishna Byre Gowda over the phone. "Three missiles fell at that time. A bomb fell near Burj Khalifa, but it did not have much impact," he said. Even on the morning of departure, he claimed, explosions were heard and the flight route was altered due to security concerns.

Another passenger, Gautham, said he experienced fear as strikes were taking place, though he did not witness explosions directly. He said several of his friends remain stranded as flights are fully booked. He, however, praised UAE authorities for maintaining security and managing the situation effectively.

The Kannadigas Helpline team, led by non-resident Kannadiga patron Ronald Colaco, extended support by collecting details of stranded individuals and appealing for urgent government assistance. The team expressed readiness to bear emergency expenses and urged those requiring medical help to get in touch.

At Kempegowda International Airport, the Help Desk is managing passenger queries and providing support until airline representatives arrive. It is coordinating ground transport, emergency services and general assistance. Basic amenities, including chairs, drinking water, snacks, medical aid, sanitary pads, charging stations and wheelchairs on request, have been arranged to ensure passenger comfort during disruptions. —IANS

After days of uncertainty, several Indians including Kannadigas reached Bengaluru as airport authorities managed delays and assisted affected international passengers

Experts' tips on how to cope with distressing news

As people awoke to headlines about deadly US -Israeli strikes on Iran and the potential of widening conflict, alerts, social media and conversations were consumed by the news. Medical experts say it is normal to experience stress and anxiety or feel that the world descended into chaos overnight but emphasise the importance of coping mechanisms and responsible news consumption to protect mental health.

"Fear, sadness, confusion... These are very normal reactions to very extreme circumstances," said Michael S Ziffra, psychiatrist and professor at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. "People shouldn't feel guilty. The key is to know how to manage it."

Normal feelings

Since 2020, marked by COVID-19, unrest and disasters, Ziffra has seen an uptick in patients reporting anxiety provoked by current events. Some vent, others obsessively scroll social media, and many feel helpless. Psychiatrists stress these reactions are expected and can even lead to positive outcomes, such as advocacy or civic engagement. Still, moderation is crucial. "The problem is, for a lot of people, they just kind of wallow in it. They ruminate and obsess," Ziffra said.

Consuming distressing news

In today's world, people are constantly exposed to breaking news through 24/7 cycles and social media algorithms. Dana Rose Garfin, psychologist at UCLA, has studied "cascading collective traumas" and found continuous coverage increases anxiety. People turn to the media for information, but the cycle of distress and consumption often

intensifies stress. "An event happens, people learn about it, they turn to the media to learn more, and they're really distressed," Garfin explained.

Responsible media use

Experts urge cutting down on social media and "doomscrolling." Roxane Cohen Silver, psychologist at UC Irvine, warns against repeated exposure to graphic images and videos. "One can stay informed without immersing oneself in graphic images," she said. Garfin recommends consuming news through articles, podcasts or segments rather than endless algorithm-driven feeds. Setting timers on devices can help regulate screen time. Ziffra also advises choosing neutral sources to avoid partisan, inflammatory content that heightens anxiety.

Identifying coping Mechanisms

Even distant events can cause intense stress. Experts encourage identifying personal coping strategies, breathing exercises, walks, hobbies, socialising, therapy, creative pursuits and self-care. Redirecting attention to positive activities can help break cycles of rumination. "Things that are going to get your mind off obsessing and worrying, and put your thoughts on something more positive," Ziffra said. —AP

Families anxious as stranded travelers recount tense atmosphere

Gulf war anxiety grips India

The US-Israeli war on Iran and the crisis it has triggered in the Gulf region have evoked great anxiety for India, New Delhi said on Tuesday, reiterating its call for dialogue and diplomacy to secure an "early end to the conflict". The war entered its fourth day on Tuesday, as explosions tore through Tehran and Beirut and global financial markets slid over fears of prolonged disruption to energy supplies. India has high stakes in the Gulf region as an estimated 10 million Indians live and work there. It is also critical to New Delhi's trade and energy supply chains.

Some Indian nationals have already been killed or are missing after the attacks, the official spokesperson of India's foreign ministry said.

The Indian embassy in Oman confirmed the death of an Indian national on board the Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker MKD VYOM that was hit by a projectile on Sunday.

"As a proximate neighbour with critical stakes in the security and stability of the region, these developments evoke great anxiety," the statement said.

Tough balancing act for India

India is walking a tightrope in the conflict, with historical ties with Iran, strong strategic relations with Israel and close friendships with Arab countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to Arab leaders and condemned Iran's attacks. He also spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and stressed the need for an early cessation of hostilities. Analysts say India could be vulnerable if higher oil prices are sustained, though the oil minister assured that the country has sufficient reserves.

India faces anxiety as US-Israel war on Iran disrupts Gulf stability, endangers nationals, and threatens vital energy supplies

Indian airlines have organised special flights to bring home stranded Indians.

Among those who returned was Piyush Pallav, travelling from Delhi to London and stranded in Dubai since Saturday.

"It is business as usual there but our families here were in bad shape," he said. "Hearing about missiles from far is more scary." —Reuters

Gardens to help bear summer heat with a smile

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They found that rooftop gardens can remarkably reduce indoor temperatures for rooms directly below the garden. Heat reduction ranged from 1.5°C to 14°C, depending on foliage type, density, and the extent of green cover.

Researchers say that while a 14°C drop did happen when 100 percent of the roof was found covered with dense foliage over a uniform soil bed, a more realistic temperature reduction is of 1.5°C to 3°C with 50% of the roof covered in dense foliage.

"As many as 82% of the people agreed that rooftop gardens regulate indoor temperature. They reported feeling 'significant cooling' during February to May. Depending on foliage type and density, rooftop gardens can provide different levels of cooling. We found that if the roof is completely covered in soil beds and vegetation, cooling benefits can be up to 14 degrees.

But this is rarely the case in Indian homes. More realistic cooling benefits are 1.5 – 3 degrees, if approximately 50% of the roof is covered with vegetation," said Chandni Singh, a researcher at the School of Environment and Sustainability, IIHS.

Experts say that exposed surface absorbs more thermal radiation, which increases heat ingress into the building. Whereas dense foliage reflects heat, provides shading, and the soil bed provides insulation, resulting in significant temperature reduction.

Drop in energy consumption

The annual energy consumption of the houses with a rooftop garden also dropped dramatically.

In the case of gardens covering a complete roof, the energy consumption dropped by more than 25 percent. For instance, in Pulikeshinagar, while the average annual consumption of energy was 3306 KWh in houses with no rooftop gardens, it went down to 2,448 KWh in houses with a rooftop covered with green foliage.

This translates to an average annual saving of approximately Rs 5,164 per 10,000 square feet of roof area. However, researchers say more realistic estimates with 50% green cover would be about a 10-15% reduction in AC requirements

Researchers, through simulation and interviews of the homeowners with rooftop gardens, found that these electricity savings are due to a drop in daily AC use from six hours to three hours during summer months.

Union-State relations: Stalin thanks Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday thanked his Karnataka counterpart Siddaramaiah for his warm response to Tamil Nadu's initiative on improving Union-State relations.

Stalin, in a social media post, said he deeply appreciated Siddaramaiah's 'thoughtful endorsement' of Tamil Nadu's initiative and recognition that federal renewal must be a collective effort.

'Thank you,' the CM conveyed to Siddaramaiah for his warm response to Part I of the Report of the High Level Committee on Union - State Relations constituted by the government of Tamil Nadu.

"As you rightly observed, Unity in a diverse republic like India is sustained not through uniformity, but through constitutional trust," Stalin said.

Part I of the Report of the High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations - in Tamil and English - was tabled in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on February 16, 2026.

Part-I of the report covers ten key topics ranging from language policy to the Governor, education, health, delimitation, elections, and GST, among others.

Siddaramaiah wrote to Stalin saying, "Federalism is not a political demand - it is part of the basic structure of our Constitution. Over the years, increasing centralisation in fiscal and legislative matters has disturbed the delicate balance envisioned by our Constitution makers."

Further, the Karnataka CM had said: "Karnataka stands ready to engage constructively in strengthening India's democratic and federal framework."

The High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations met in New Delhi on 22 February 2026 to deliberate on Part II of its Report.

The meeting was attended by the Chairperson, Justice Kurian Joseph, former Judge of the Supreme Court, and the members, K Ashok Vardhan Shetty and M Naganathan. The committee discussed various topics to be included in the Part-II of its report, covering 10 chapters. **PTI**

Forest officer plans strict action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the cutting of the trees. I demand the Forest Department to lodge a complaint with KR Puram Police to take stringent action against those responsible for cutting trees," said Balaji Raghotham, an environmentalist.

BM spoke with Sreeram, a well-known green warrior, who told us that he worked for five years to nurture the saplings into trees. "I spent my weekends watering the saplings for five years. I do not know who is behind the cutting of these trees. The forest department officials must take stringent action against those responsible," said Sreeram.

Expressing disappointment with the apathy of the authorities, Sreeram said some of the trees were damaged when the footpath on the service road near the Hanging Bridge was being developed. "It is the responsibility of the authorities to save the trees. I hope they save the remaining trees by acting tough against the guilty," he said.

Coming down heavily on the forest department for not taking measures to save trees, a resident, on the condition of anonymity, said the authorities failed utterly to take action against the builders and advertisement mafia who cut trees for their own interests. "Many business establishments and builders are responsible for cutting trees and unnatural death of trees. I have never come across any businessman or a builder being punished for cutting trees," he said.

When contacted, BECC Range Forest Officer Asha Geeta said that she also saw that miscreants had put acid around the stem of trees apart from cutting many trees. "I have registered a first information report. I am submitting it to the honourable court," the RFO said.

Your Connect

WANTED ADVOCATE

A fast growing chain of international schools in Bengaluru, with plans of starting a University, is looking for an advocate with minimum 7 years experience in legal matters, including agreements, sale deed, notices, coordination & appearance in courts, police liaison, real estate exposure etc.

Interested candidates may mail their resume to:
leadershiprecruitment1@gmail.com

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

TEACHER

PLANET BLOOMINGDALE Requires
Trained / Untrained Pre-School Teachers, Housekeeping Staff and Lady Security
FOR KORAMANGALA Branch. Attractive Salary Contact Immediately: 9243127555 / 9243101700

GENIUS GLOBAL SCHOOL (Affiliated to CBSE)
Wanted MATH teachers with relevant qualification for class 8 to 10Send resume: geniusglobalschool2@gmail.com Contact: 9740084742

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA
Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

HIRING OFFICE ASSISTANTS & CLERKS (Textile Export Company) Bommanahalli, Bangalore. Mail to: starsilks@gmail.com

MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

SALES

Urgently required the following positions for a reputed and established Co in Bangalore
Junior Sales Executives
REQUIRES CANDIDATES with high initiative and drive to achieve Networking skills will be a great advantage Position offers good growth prospects in addition to attractive remuneration.
Age : About 25-27 years.
Apply to : hvac.recruitments2512@gmail.com

TECHNICAL

ENGINEERS

WANTED Civil Engineers in bangalore (Mysore rd) 5 - 6 yrs, Experience (site). 3.5 lacs CTC. Call : Hyder Aziz : 74110 26101 , Faisel Aziz : 99023 29423

GENERAL

WE'RE HIRING
"WASTEWATER TREATMENT INDUSTRY"
25+ years reputed organisation seeks AutoCAD Design, Sales, Installation, Electrical, and Environmental Engineers (Freshers/Trainees). Exposure to SBR, MBR, UF preferred. Strong technical skills and learning attitude required. Join a leading wastewater treatment company.
Send resumes to: madhuri@seamak.com Location: Bengaluru

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

PEENYA

COMMERCIAL Building for Rent, 50000 sqft, KIADB Alloted Plot, 1.5km from Peenya Metro Station, 0.75km from Outer Ring Road, Close to TVS Cross, Contact - 7338486999

ROYALE CONCORDE GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
(HEAD OFFICE)
WE ARE HIRING
SENIOR ACCOUNTANTS / JUNIOR ACCOUNTANTS
- Minimum 5 years of statutory accounting experience
- Strong working knowledge of ESI and PF compliance
- Experience in finalisation of Accounts

DTP Operators - 5 years of experience
- Good knowledge of CorelDRAW, Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator
- Fast typing skills in English and Kannada
- Ability to work accurately and meet deadlines

Liaisoning Officers
- Coordinate with government departments
- Handle approvals, licenses, and documentation
- Follow up with officials and ensure compliance

Drop-in your resume (along with passport size colour photo) on any working day between 9:00 a.m to 3.00 p.m.
Salary & Remuneration as per qualification and experience
Apply in confidence at: inforcet1@gmail.com
For more details, Contact: 080-41126188 / 92431 95188

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I,R. Rohit Aradhya S/O K.B. Raju R/o N.Veerabhadraiah no 141, Devisettihalli, Chikkaballapur- 562103 have changed my name to R. Rohith Aradhya for all purposes.

I, Afroz Pasha C A S/O, Chand Pasha R/o No 341 Patan Kote 1st Cross To 5th Cross Gangondanahalli Bangalore 560039 have changed my name to Afroz Pasha for all purposes.

I, Dharmesh Kumar Manubhai S/O, Manubhai Patoliya R/o 01/02, 2nd Floor,3rd Cross, Shrikantpura , Anchepalya Mayanna Layout, Doddabidarakallu, Bangalore 560073 have changed my name to Dharmesh Kumar for all purposes.

HEMA Balaraj Arundathi W/o Raja Gopal Somaya jalahally Krishnaiah Setty R/o No 144, Tanisha Enclave, 5th Cross, MEI Layout, Bengaluru-560073. Have Changed Arundathi Vontimitta Rajagopal for All Purposes.

I, NITYA VIJAY residing at C512, Block C, Sena Vihar, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru – 560043 have changed my name to NITYA VIJAY PILLAI vide affidavit dated 03/03/2026 sworn before notary B SESHAGIRI Bengaluru

WE, Sudharshan B K & Sankalpa R, currently residing at No.1603, 5th Block, Near R V College of Architecture, Banashankari 6th Stage, Thalaghattapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560109, we have changed our son name to ATHARV S K from KRTIN S K vide affidavit dated : 27/02/2026 Before Notary N Sandhya.

I Shaikh Mahmed Aslam Mahmed yusuf R/o: E6 1st floor SAR complex Marathahalli, Bangalore.37 I have Changed my name to Shaikh Mohammed Aslam

I, ADITYA, R/at # .301, 3rd Floor, Gangothri Enclave, 36th A Crs, 11th A Mn, Jayanagar 4th T Blk, B'lore- 41, I Have changed to ADITYA B SHAH vide Aff dtd 27.02.2026, sworn before Notary DEVARAJA. E, B'lore.

I, A. Musadiq Pasha S/O Abdul Hakeem R/o No-18, 1st Cross, SRK Garden, Tilaknagar Main Road, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041 have changed my name to Musadiq Pasha for all purposes.

I Mohammed Juned Abdul Qadir Shaikh, have changed my daughter's name from Madiha Taskeen Mohammed Juned to Madiha Taskeen, affidavit dt-27/2/26 notary by H.R. Krishna.

Change of Name
I, Jayaram S/o Late Lingappa, r/at No. 49, Rajareddy Layout, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore 560073 declare that my correct name is Jayaramareddy and correct date of birth is 01.01.1956 instead of 04.08.1965 vide affidavit dt. 02.03.2026 sworn before Notary Anuradha D, Bangalore.

Teams meeting in last four of the tournament for third time in a row, with one victory apiece

History-seeking India face improving England

India, bidding to become the first team to successfully defend the Twenty20 World Cup title, face an England side building momentum in their semi-final at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

The teams are meeting in the last four of the tournament for the third time in a row, with one victory apiece, and the winners went on to lift the trophy on each occasion. India won it in 2024 without losing a match but they suffered a setback in a Super Eight stage defeat by South Africa this time around, before responding well with victories over Zimbabwe and West Indies. "You've got to win every game in which you represent your country ... you have to play your 'A' game every time," coach Gautam Gambhir told reporters.

"It comes down to experience as well as mental strength. Come the big games, the knockout games, the World Cups, it's all about mental (toughness), not about skill."

Cricketer Ishan Kishan arrives ahead of the men's T20 World Cup semi-final match against England at Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai on Monday

Cricketer Rinku Singh and others

India's top order has struggled at the tournament with opener Abhishek Sharma, the top-ranked batter in the format, managing only 80 runs in six matches with three ducks to his name. Sanju Samson's unbeaten 97 in their win over West Indies was a welcome boost, however, and India boast explosive firepower in the middle order with Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube.

There are fewer concerns over the hosts' bowling unit led by top-ranked leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, though the fielding needs to improve after 13 dropped catches.

Trump card

Twice champions England will be confident of causing an upset having found form following a sketchy start to the tournament.

All-rounder Will Jacks has scored 191 runs down the order and captured seven wickets to earn four player-of-the-match awards, and captain Harry Brook, Tom Banton and Sam Curran have all made useful contributions with the bat.

"If there's ever a time we want to play our perfect game, it's probably Thursday night," Curran told reporters on Tuesday.

"We've all been chipping in at different times but we know in T20 cricket it probably just takes a couple of our guys to come good with bat and ball."

Former captain Jos Buttler has struggled badly, however, making only 62 runs in seven matches, and his opening partner Phil Salt also looks short of confidence.

England spinners Adil Rashid, Liam Dawson and Jacks will look to disrupt India's rhythm, particularly at the Wankhede, where the shorter boundaries and a turning track could prove to be decisive. —Reuters

Sanju Samson thanks fans after match-winning 97

Indian opener Sanju Samson on Tuesday expressed gratitude to fans for their support after he delivered a stunning unbeaten innings against the West Indies in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Super 8s fixture at Eden Gardens.

Samson's explosive 97-run knock off 50 balls, with the help of 12 fours and four sixes, guided the defending champion to a five-wicket win against the West Indies, which helped them to secure their place in the T20 World Cup semi-finals.

In the match, West Indies posted 195/4 after opting to bat, powered by contributions from Roston Chase (40), Hope (32), Shimron Hetmyer (27), and an unbeaten 76-run partnership between Jason Holder (37*) and Rovman Powell (34*). India's bowlers were led by Jasprit Bumrah, who returned figures of 2/36.

In reply, India overcame an early setback before a series of partnerships guided them home. Samson played a key role in the chase, stitching crucial stands with Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma, as India sealed a five-wicket victory to progress further in the tournament.

Sharing an Instagram story on his official handle, Samson wrote, "Just wanted to reach out and convey my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who showed love, support, and kept me in your prayers. Seeing and experiencing so much love coming my way truly means a lot. Just want to say - THANK YOU ALL. Two more steps to go. INDIA."

—ANI

Will Proteas icon David Miller continue his brilliant knockout match run?

South African batter David Miller will be aiming to continue his brilliant run in ICC events' knockout matches when they take to the field at iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata for the ICC T20 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand.

South Africa and New Zealand, two excellent white-ball sides who are yet to win a World Cup event, be it the 20-over or the 50-over, will get a chance to play India or England in the title clash for their first-ever ICC T20 World Cup crown. For the 2024 runners-up, South Africa, Miller will be the key, with an exceptional record in ICC tournament knockout matches. Miller will be aiming to make up for being caught by Suryakumar Yadav at long-off during the 2024 T20WC final at Barbados by firing a couple more times to guide his side to the T20I crown.

South Africa's captain Aiden Markram, centre lifts a medicine ball as David Miller gestures during a practice session ahead of their T20 World Cup cricket match against New Zealand, in Kolkata, on Tuesday

Miller has featured in nine ICC event knockout matches, scoring 350 runs in six innings at an average of 116.66 and a strike rate of 124.55, with two centuries and a fifty. His knocks at the ICC KO matches are as follows: 56* in 51 balls against England in the ICC Champions Trophy 2013 semifinals (losing cause)

- 23* in 12 balls against India in ICC T20 World Cup 2014 semifinals (losing cause)
- 49 in 18 balls against New Zealand in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 semifinals (losing cause)
- 101 in 116 balls against Australia in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 semifinals (losing cause)
- 21 in 17 balls against India in ICC T20 World Cup 2024 semifinals (losing cause)
- 100* in 67 balls against New Zealand in ICC Champions Trophy semifinals (losing cause)

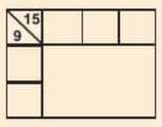
Miller has been perhaps one of the unluckiest cricketers of the modern era. While Proteas recently shed their 'chokers' tag with a landmark ICC World Test Championship title win last year at Lord's against Australia under the captaincy of Temba Bavuma, the left-hander is yet to get his hands on an ICC title despite standing tall on so many occasions for his team. So far in the tournament, Miller has scored 168 runs in five innings at an average of 84.00, ending unbeaten thrice in five innings and scoring his runs at a strike rate of 158.49. His best knock came against India, where he scored a valuable 63.

The veteran batter, who is highly likely to be playing his last T20 World Cup, will be aiming to continue his happy run with the bat. —ANI

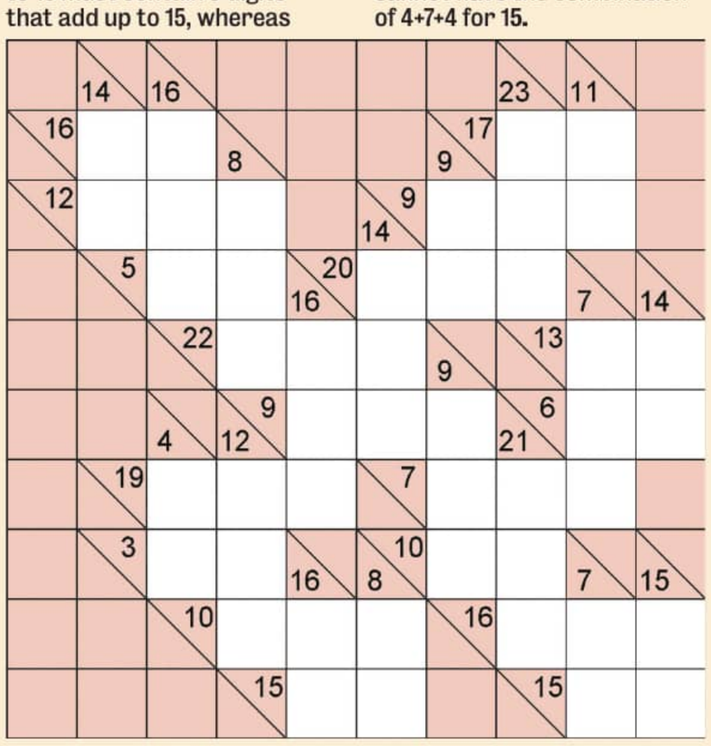
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

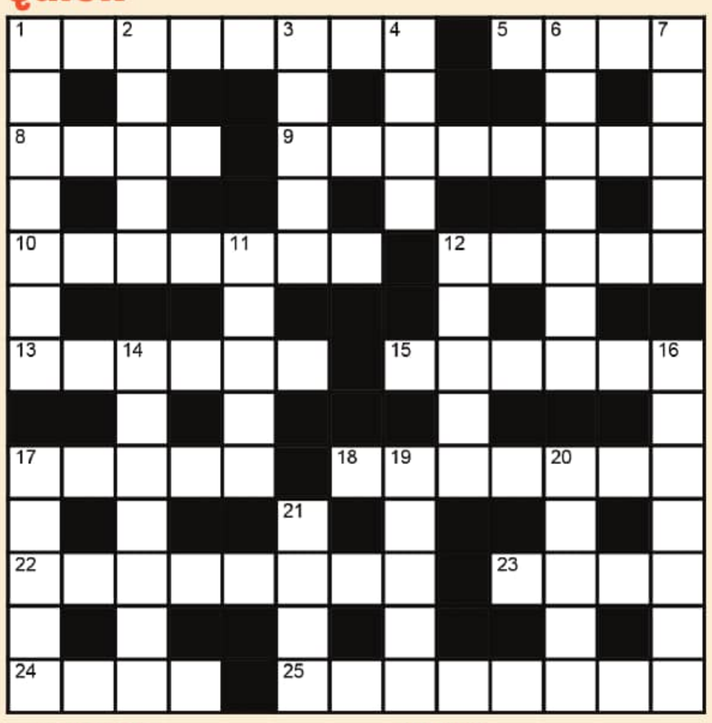
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Calm or undisturbed (8)
5 Polluted air (4)
8 A kind of noose (4)
9 50 kms from Bangalore, this area is a favourite for rock climbers (8)
10 Less expensive (7)
12 Triple (5)
13 Irritated, annoyed (6)
15 Fretted; caused or showed unnecessary nervous excitement? (6)
17 Outmoded (5)
18 Depart hastily? (4,3)
22 Great Sanskrit poet of Meghadoot and Raghuvamsa (8)
23 Of the ear (4)
24 Carries out (4)
25 Italian artist ____ da Vinci (8)

DOWN

1 Large-billed sea-bird (7)
2 Opened one's eyes (5)
3 Compel or constrain (5)
4 An arm, or a leg (4)
6 A person who allows himself to be outwitted? (7)
7 Cleft or canyon (5)
11 Portion (5)
12 Chest (5)
14 Determination (7)
16 Actual, in reality (2,5)
17 ___ fun at : assailed with ridicule? (5)
19 Texas shrine (5)
20 Aquatic animal (5)
21 Don't pass (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS Y

RCEX IXPNR KBX WYF MGXF ACY KBX KHSYTBTFD NGXE, PYN FCFX KBX WYF MGXF ACY RXN KPCYN BXNTBTFD NGXE.

Linemaro

Do you live in a corn field? I want to stalk you

Mindchow

"How do you know so much about everything?" was asked of a very wise and intelligent man; and the answer was "By never being afraid or ashamed to ask questions as to anything of

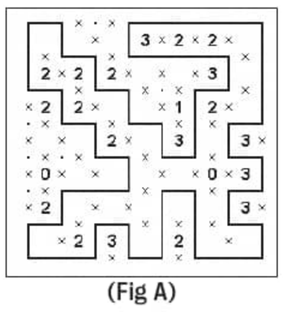
Joke of the day

I belong to a gym now... well, let me rephrase that: I don't belong there at all, but I go.

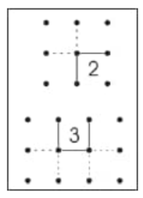
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

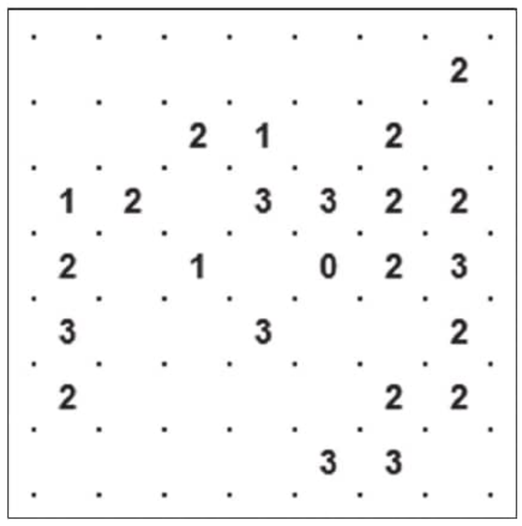


(Fig B) Not Allowed

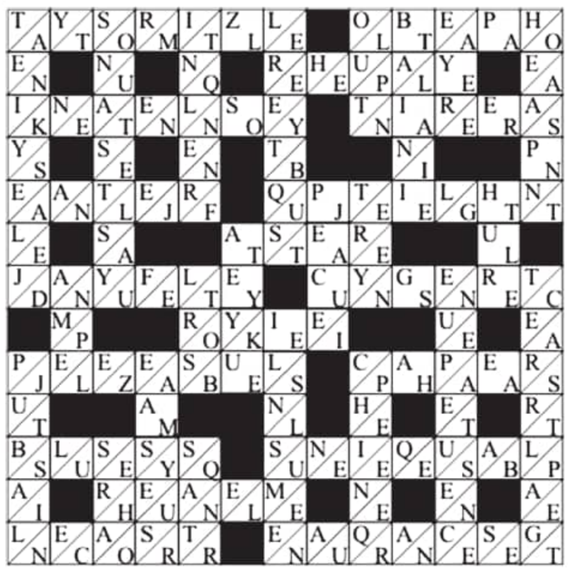
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



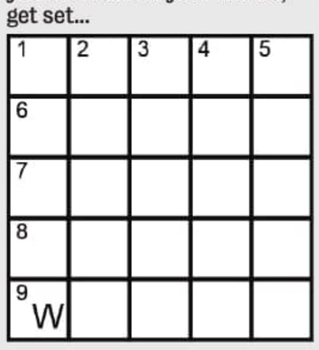
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

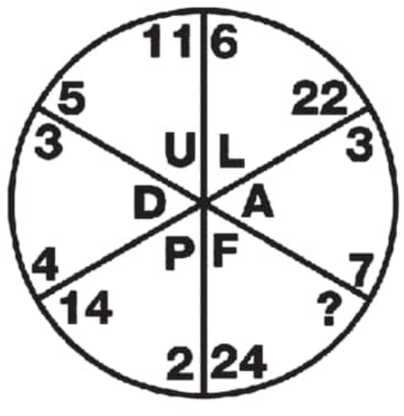
1 Prams; 6 Melia (1-4); 7 OK sic; 8 Gorse; 9 Whoso

DOWN

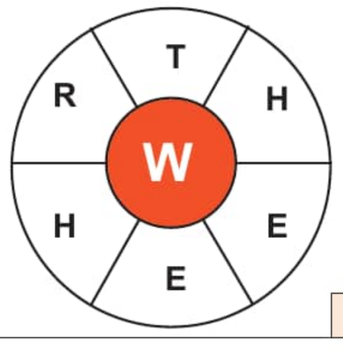
1 Sower; 2 Mi Goa; 3 Carom; 4 Spike; 5 Sh Los

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7	8	9			6			1
					1	8		2
	3			5				7
4	5							
		1		6		2		
							6	8
3				4			8	
5		4	8					
9			2			4	3	5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 13

4 8 8 9

Medium

= 17

1 4 7 7

Hard

= 1

2 4 5 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

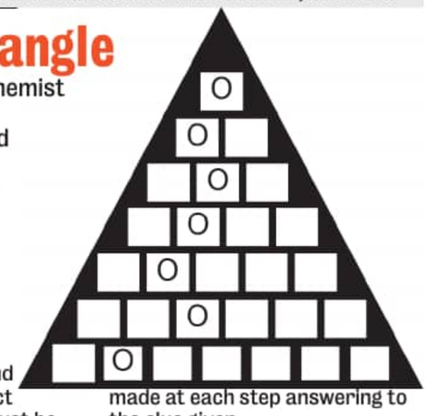
Differences: 1. Lapel is longer. 2. Collar is added. 3. Woman's hat is smaller. 4. Paper is added. 5. Doorway is taller. 6. Arm is longer.

Riddler

A man worked for a high-security institution, and one day he went in to work only to find that he could not log in to his computer terminal. His password wouldn't work. Then he remembered that the passwords are reset every month for security purposes. So he went to his boss and they had this conversation: Man-"Hey boss, my password is out of date." Boss-"Yes, that's right. The password is different, but if you listen carefully you should be able to figure out the new one: It has the same amount of letters as your old password, but only four of the letters are the same." Man: "Thanks boss." With that, he went and correctly logged into his station. What was the new password?

Alpha triangle

1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 _ target
3 Solomon, to David
4 Many eras
5 Winning margins
6 Teacakes
7 Plead guilty

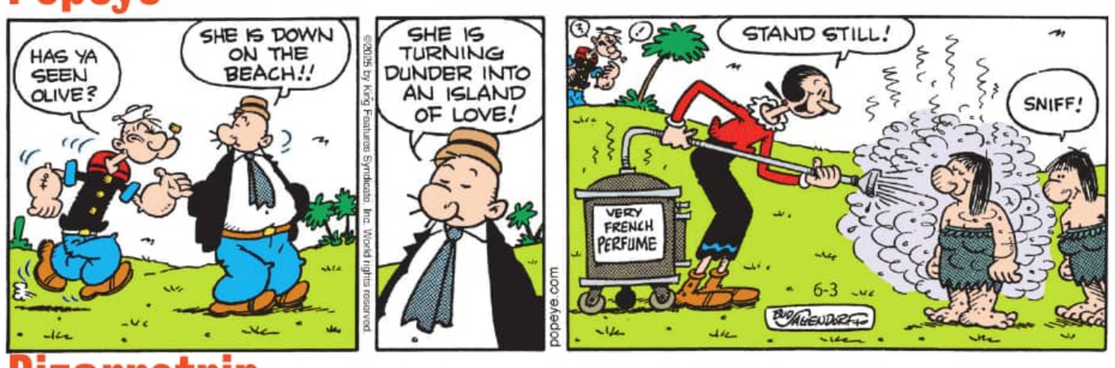


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

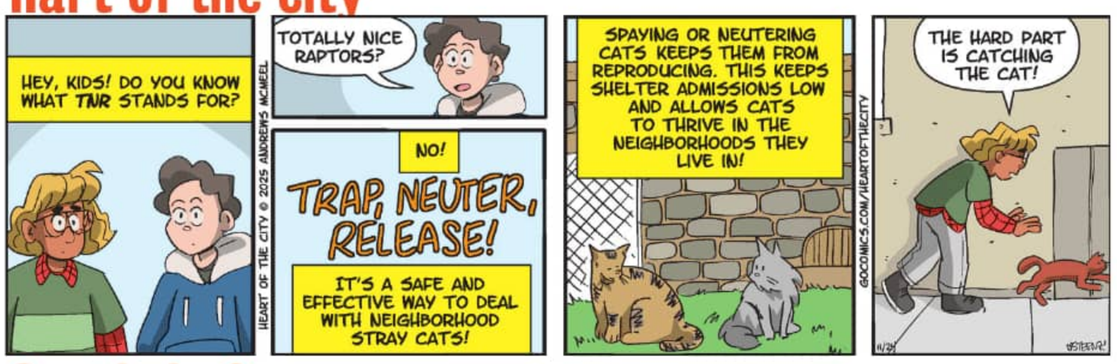
Popeye


HAS YA SEEN OLIVE?
SHE IS DOWN ON THE BEACH!!
SHE IS TURNING DUNDER INTO AN ISLAND OF LOVE!
STAND STILL!
SNIFF!
VERY FRENCH PERFUME
6-3
©2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
popeye.com

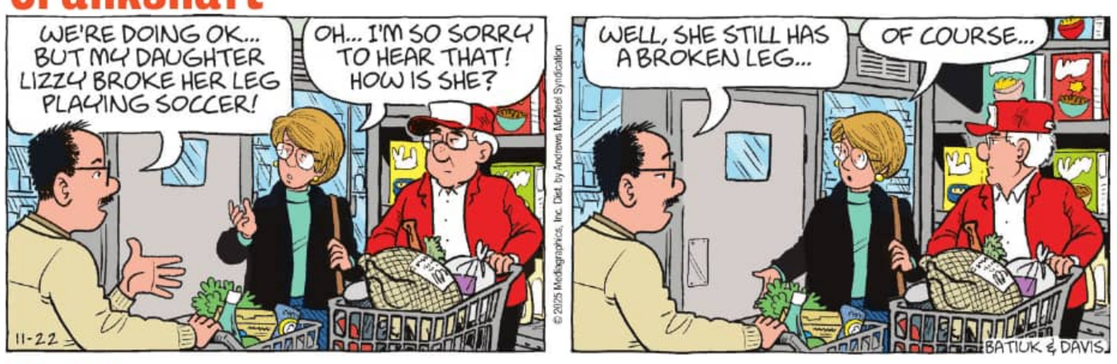
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


HEY, KIDS! DO YOU KNOW WHAT TNR STANDS FOR?
TOTALLY NICE RAPTORS?
NO!
TRAP, NEUTER, RELEASE!
IT'S A SAFE AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO DEAL WITH NEIGHBORHOOD STRAY CATS!
SPAYING OR NEUTERING CATS KEEPS THEM FROM REPRODUCING. THIS KEEPS SHELTER ADMISSIONS LOW AND ALLOWS CATS TO THRIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS THEY LIVE IN!
THE HARD PART IS CATCHING THE CAT!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


WE'RE DOING OK... BUT MY DAUGHTER LIZZY BROKE HER LEG PLAYING SOCCER!
OH... I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR THAT! HOW IS SHE?
WELL, SHE STILL HAS A BROKEN LEG...
OF COURSE...
11-22
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Steadiness defines your energy today. Love deepens through reliability and trust. Work progresses smoothly as dedication pays off. Financial stability grows with disciplined choices. Travel plans move slowly but surely. Home life feels organized and reassuring, offering peace of mind. You're reminded that patience and perseverance quietly build the foundation for lasting happiness and security.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today makes connecting easy, but, expect little in return. That's fine; generosity matters more. Give freely, stay detached, and value the act itself over responses received with grace.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Aim high, yet planets suggest short-term modesty brings long-term gains. Lower sights briefly, allow rivals small wins, and earn appreciation while strengthening your own position steadily over coming weeks ahead.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
If a trusted person disappoints you today, don't dramatize it. Intentions were likely innocent; circumstances interfered. Show understanding, keep perspective, and preserve loyalty without resentment or unnecessary emotional fallout later.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
To impress colleagues and employers, propose ideas that simplify their workload. energy boosts imagination and confidence, helping you present talents creatively and gain recognition at work settings today confidently.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Pause your busy routine to plan enjoyable moments ahead. Even with heavy workloads, scheduling fun ensures motivation, balance, and something uplifting to anticipate during upcoming weeks despite pressures at work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Hesitation to share feelings stems from fear of exploitation. While risk exists, honest communication with trusted loved ones is necessary to address worries and receive support without suppressing emotions entirely.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, expressing thoughts comes easily. Share openly, yet avoid revealing everything at once; discretion preserves leverage and mystery within close partnerships, friendships, and negotiations now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Instead of obsessing over finances, clear negative thinking and brainstorm practical solutions. Focused optimism sparks ideas that improve cashflow and restore confidence through action, discipline, patience, planning, and persistence today.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Be emotionally transparent today so others tread carefully. Openly showing sensitivity reduces careless remarks and prevents reactions that could escalate into damaging conflicts with friends, colleagues, partners, and family alike.

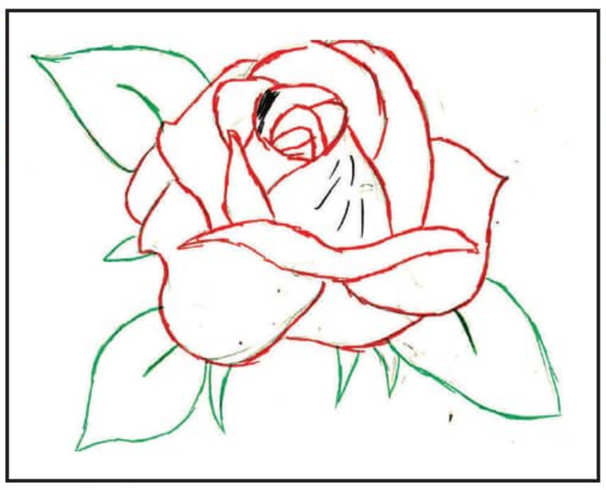
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A loved one may overreact to minor drama. Accept their nature, stop resisting, and offer steady compassion rather than judgment or solutions during emotional moments, listening patiently without expectations attached.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your upbeat mood is contagious right now. Share laughter generously, lift spirits at home and work, and help others match your joy through kindness, humor, warmth, empathy, connection, daily interactions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Recent weeks were intensely hectic, but the pace is easing. Responsibilities remain, yet you can approach challenges calmly, patiently, and with renewed balance, clarity, confidence, steadiness, perspective, self-trust, resilience, now.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Pranav, Bengaluru

RK Bhuvan, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
5×3+√[100]
15+10
25

BULL'S EYE
ewer, threw, were, where, whet, WHETHER

STRIKE OUT

A	T	O	M	I	Z	E	O	B
N	U	N	R	E	P	L	Y	A
I	N	T	E	N	S	E	T	I
S	S	E	B	N	T	I	E	R
E	N	T	E	R	U	P	T	I
T	S	A	R	U	P	T	I	G
D	A	Y	F	L	Y	C	Y	G
P	O	K	I	E	C	A	P	E
J	E	Z	E	B	E	L	C	A
U	A	L	H	T	T			
B	L	E	S	S	U	N	E	Q
A	R	E	A	L	M	E	N	E
L	E	A	S	T	E	A	R	N

FAST FIVE

R	A	M	P	S
E	M	A	I	L
O	G	R	E	S
S	I	C	K	O
W	O	O	S	H

RIDDLER
The new one is: Different. He said: My password is "Out of date." And the boss told him the new one when he said: "The password is different."

QUICK

P	E	A	C	E	F	U	L	
E	W		O		I		U	
L	O	O	P		R	A	M	N
I		K		C		B		G
C	H	E	A	P	E	R		T
A		I		R		N		
N	A	R	K	E	D		F	U
E		C		E			N	
P	A	S	S	E	M	A	K	E
O		O		F		L		
K	A	L	I	D	A	S	A	
E	V		I		M		E	
T		E		M		I		O
D	O	E	S		L	E	O	N

QUOTE UNCODE
Some debts are fun when you are acquiring them, but none are fun when you set about retiring them.

MENSA PUZZLE
3. The difference in each segment equals the numerical value of the letter in the opposite segment.

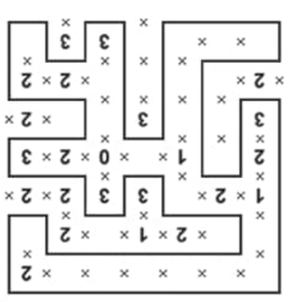
SUDOKU

9	6	8	2	1	7	4	3	5
5	1	4	8	3	9	7	2	6
3	2	7	6	4	5	1	8	9
2	7	3	1	9	4	5	6	8
8	9	1	5	6	3	2	7	4
4	5	6	7	8	2	9	1	3
1	3	2	9	5	8	6	4	7
6	4	5	3	7	1	8	9	2
7	8	9	4	2	6	3	5	1

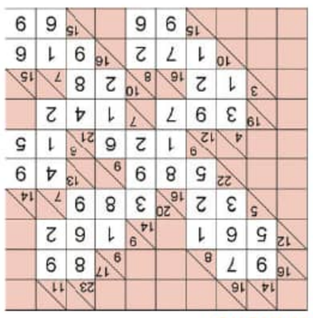
ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, On, Son, Eons, Noses, Scones, Confess.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 − 8 + 9 + 4 = 13
Medium
7 + 4 − 1 + 7 = 17
Hard
5 − 2 + 4 / 7 = 1

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 045 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Stylish designer outfits wowed
Vijay and Rashmika wore stunning Falguni and Shane Peacock ensembles that became a highlight of their joyous evening

Sixty, stylish, still unstoppable

Superstar embraces milestone birthday with wit and youthful spirit

Last year, as the actor who gave us gems like 'Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak' and 'Lagaan' celebrated his 60th birthday, Aamir Khan met the media in his signature candid style. Looking back at that cheerful interaction, Aamir had said, "I am glad that the media celebrates my birthday this way. Birthday se mujhe fark nahin padta. I have turned 60 now!" His lighthearted tone instantly set the mood for the afternoon.

At the press conference, a journalist noticed that Aamir tends to wear black on his birthdays. "I usually wear black. Nowadays, I am not fit. Aur aadmi black mein dubla lagta hai!" he joked, proving once again why his off-screen humour is as loved as his performances in films like 'Dangal'.

When asked whether turning 60 felt different, Aamir brushed aside the idea of age weighing him down. "Not really. Even today when I see someone who is 30-40 years old, I address him as 'uncle'! I think we are all like this. We all feel that we are 18 or 21 years old," he shared. His perspective reflected a youthful spirit that continues to define both his personality and public image.

Birthday meets holi

Adding a nostalgic touch, Aamir revealed a special coincidence about his birth.

"60 years ago, when I was born, it was the first day of Holi. Ammi told me that the nurse came and put a tikka on my forehead. Even today is the first day of Holi," he recalled. The colourful memory made the celebration even more meaningful, blending personal history with festive joy.

On the workfront

On the professional front, Aamir Khan was recently seen in 'Happy Patel: Khatarnak Jasoos,' where he made a cameo appearance and also served as the film's producer. The Vir Das-starrer received mixed reviews and a modest box office response.

Aamir is next backing 'Ek Din,' starring his son Junaid Khan alongside Sai Pallavi. The film's teaser was released recently and has generated curiosity among audiences.

According to News18, Aamir is reportedly set to play the legendary filmmaker Dadasaheb Phalke in an upcoming biopic to be directed by Rajkumar Hirani, though an official announcement is still awaited. He has also confirmed that work has begun on his long-gestating dream project based on the Mahabharat, further heightening anticipation among fans and the film industry alike.

—ETimes

From wizard to warrior

Daniel Radcliffe, once indifferent to his health, has embraced a rigorous fitness routine and now openly describes himself as a "fitness freak." The 'Harry Potter' star — who began his career as a child actor in the globally loved franchise — recently spoke candidly about his personal transformation and how his relationship with health has steadily evolved over the years.

"I do weights, circuit training, and cardio. Radcliffe's transformation is closely tied to his sobriety journey. He has been open about struggling with alcohol in the past and has remained teetotal since 2012, acknowledging that drinking once served as an escape from self-consciousness. Fatherhood has further reshaped his routine. With a young son at home, Radcliffe now rises around 5.30 am, embracing discipline and structure. His shift from cigarettes and caffeine to fitness and family highlights a deeper commitment to physical and mental well-being. **—ETimes**

Grit behind the glam

Actress Sai Tamhankar — who is known for her fearless choices across Marathi and Hindi cinema — recently opened up about an unsettling incident from the early days of her career.

In a candid interview, she recalled receiving an inappropriate phone call with a suggestion that made her uncomfortable. Instead of staying silent, Sai said she gave a firm reply ("karara jawab") and ended the call immediately — showing she wouldn't tolerate unprofessional behaviour.

She stressed that such behaviour isn't limited to showbiz — it can happen in any profession — and emphasised that self-belief and clear boundaries are important for navigating a career without compromise.

Reflecting on her work, she also talked about her role in the film Hunterrr (a Bollywood movie where she starred opposite Gulshan Devaiah). Rather than worrying about how people would react, she said she treated even bold scenes simply as part of her job — believing that overthinking public opinion would make acting impossible. **—ETimes**

Gulal, glamour, girl gang

For Holi 2026, we are revisiting the iconic childhood memories of Bollywood's most famous best friends. Bollywood kids, Ananya Panday, Suhana Khan, and Shanaya Kapoor may have grown into stars, but their bond remains as strong as ever. This viral throwback, originally shared by the 'Call Me Bae' actor, captures the trio sporting bright red gulal and radiant smiles.

Holi throwback magic

When Ananya Panday shared a childhood Holi photograph back in 2021, the internet instantly embraced the nostalgia. The actor posted an old picture featuring two of her closest friends, Shanaya Kapoor and Suhana Khan, both covered in bright red gulal. The image beautifully captured the purity of childhood friendships and the carefree, playful energy of Holi celebrations.

Admirers flooded the comments section, calling the trio adorable and celebrating their long-standing friendship that has gracefully transitioned from childhood to stardom. Her mother, Maheep Kapoor, commented, "Awwww my babies."

I Panday said, "A white kurta and pyjama." She explained that Holi feels more enjoyable when the clothes carry colours by the end of the celebration. Panday added, "I want to get as colourful and messy as possible," expressing her love for the aesthetically chaotic spirit of the festival. She also mentioned that her traditional Holi outfits often come from a designer's wardrobe and that she keeps them for memory purposes, as they remind her of the joy attached to each celebration. **—ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Romance rains again

Two songs from the forthcoming Kannada movie Matthe Male Hoyyitide (meaning: it is raining again) were launched at MMB Legacy recently. Shravanabelagola MLA C N Balakrishna and veteran director Naganna were the guests at the event. The movie is supported by Suma, the better half of assistant art director Gangadhar, under the Sri Gaviranganathaswamy Pictures banner. The tagline of the movie is Ella Nenapaguttide. Param Gubbi directs the film, while Kabaddi Narendra Babu has written the story, dialogues and screenplay.

Speaking at the event, director Param Gubbi said that a story written by K Sadashiva has been adapted for the film. "We have donated the remuneration for adapting the novel to Kannada Sahitya Parishat. I want to thank Kabaddi Narendra Babu for his cooperation and guidance," he said.

Shruthi Anilkumar has also played a teacher in the movie. G Likhith and theatre artiste Jayavardhan are the heroes, paired opposite Sulaksha Khaira and Bhoomika Gowda.

Reel story, real issues

V Somanna, Union Minister of State for Railways, unveiled the poster of upcoming Kannada movie Sarkari Nyayabele Angadi. As the title suggests, the movie revolves around Government Fair Price Shops. The entire filming was done in and around Mandya district.

"The movie Sarkari Nyayabele Angadi aims to narrate the problems of ration card holders. I want to appreciate the cast and crew for attempting to create awareness among the public. I wish good luck to the team," he said.

Meanwhile, Kumar Bangarappa, who played the lead, said it is the first movie based on fair price shops distributing essential commodities to economically weaker families. "The movie is set against the backdrop of a village. It has all elements, including a social message. It mirrors the functioning of the public distribution system in the state. Ragini Dwivedi played Parvathi, a village woman. The film is bankrolled by Teju Murthy and Padvathy Chandrashekar under Jayashankar Talkies banner. Satvik Pavankumar directed the film and also handled cinematography.